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23 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Current Soviet Policy

1. The attached estimate of the Board of National Estimates examines Soviet policy since Stalin's death in the light of the additional evidence which has become available since the publication of our basic estimate on Soviet affairs. (NIE-90: "Soviet Bloc Capabilities through Mid-1953," published 15 August 1953; and NIE-95: "Probable Soviet Bloc Courses of Action through Mid-1955," published 23 September 1953.)

2. This paper was prepared in consultation with O/CI and O/RR. It represents the views of these offices as well as of O/NE.

3. This paper does not change the estimates of NIE's 90 and 95 in any fundamental way. The new evidence does make it possible, however, to be much more definite on various important aspects of Soviet policy than was possible last summer, when NIE's 90 and 95 were written. In effect it is an interim estimate supplementing and bringing up to date NIE-90 and NIE-95.

4. Despite the broad estimative character of this paper, the Board recommends that no effort be made to put it through the coordination process in view of the pending annual re-estimate of Soviet capabilities and probable courses of action (scheduled for the second quarter of 1954).

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

attachment

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(1) Approved For Release 2001/08/14 : CIA-RDP79R00904A000200010056-7

(10) [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

(1) [REDACTED] 25X1X7

DOCUMENT NO. 12
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____

AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 1-5-80 REVIEWER: 372044

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